



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

March 22, 2022

Cathy Fulton
P.O. Box 457
Port Aransas, TX 78373

RE: Proposed Desalination Project: Port of Corpus Christi (POCC) Authority
TPDES Permit No. TX0138347 (WQ0005253000)

Dear Ms. Fulton:

Thank you for your letter dated February 28, 2022, regarding the proposed desalination project in the Corpus Christi bay area (more specifically, the proposed TPDES permit (TX0138347, WQ0005253000) for the Port of Corpus Christi (POCC) Authority. We appreciate your gratitude in the EPA's involvement in the permit issuance process and your request for the EPA to continue to enforce the requirements of the Clean Water Act as it relates to the TCEQ's permitting issuance process for the proposed desalination plant and its overall administration of the TPDES Permitting program. We note your concern of the impact of the proposed discharge location on the aquatic life and fisheries within the watershed and the recreational use that is critical to the residents and visitors of Port Aransas.

As you may be aware the TCEQ assumed authorization to administer the NPDES Permitting Program in 1998 and amended its program to include oil and gas activities in Jan. 2021. In accordance with the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the EPA and the TCEQ, the TCEQ submits draft TPDES permits for the EPA's review and comment. This procedure aligns with the EPA's oversight role to ensure state-issued permits and conditions and requirements are consistent with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

In regard to the proposed project desalination project, the Port of Corpus Christi (POCC) Authority (and future desalination plants), the EPA will continue to exercise its oversight role and duty in ensuring these permits are protective of aquatic life and human health in all communities. We welcome your comments and concerns and appreciate and thank you for your commitment in ensuring the health and quality of the waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and of the surrounding communities. Should you have any questions related to NPDES or the state authorized program please feel free to contact Mark Hayes of my staff at (214) 665-2705, or email:hayes.mark@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Maguire", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Charles W. Maguire
Director
Water Division (WD)